MINUTES

OF THE

ELEVENTH SPRING SESSION

OF THE

BEAR CREEK PRIMITIVE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH THE

Freedom Church, Stanly County, N. C.

May 4th, 5th and 6th, 1895.

ALSO OF THE

Sixty-fourth Annual, or Fall Session,

HELD WITH THE

Liberty Church, Union County, N. C.

October 5th, 6th and 7th, 1895.

Compiled by J. W. JONES, Clerk, White Store, N. C.

G. M. Beasley & Bro., Printers, Monroe, N. C.

BEAR CREEK PRIMITIVE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SPRING SESSION.

FREEDOM, Stanly County, N. C.,
May 4th, 1895.

Introductory Sermon delivered by Elder S. C. Little, text Titus 2nd chapter, 1st verse. Intermission of one hour, after which the Association assembled in the house. Praise and prayer by Elder J. E. Williams.

1. Called for and read letters from the several churches of this Association, and their status minuted. (See table.)

2. Appointed Elder S. C. Little Moderator and J. W. Jones Clerk.

3. Called for correspondence from sister Associations. From Mill Branch and Abbott's Creek file of minutes.

4. Invited visiting brethren of sister Associations to seats. Elder J. E. Adams, of Little River, and Brother J. M. Tucker, of Abbott's Creek, were present.

5. Appointed Elders Jesse Brown, J. F. Mills, and N. M. Clark, with Moderator and Clerk a Committee of Arrangements.

6. Elders J. E. Adams, J. E. Williams and J. F. Mills occupy the stand to-morrow. Service at 10 o'clock, a. m.

7. Adjourned until half past 9 o'clock Monday morning. Benediction by the Moderator.

While the Association was in session in the house Elders J. E. Williams and J. E. Adams prached at the stand; Elder William's text being St. John 3d chapter and 3d verse; Elder Adams' text being 1 Peter, second chapter and 9th verse.

SUNDAY, May 5th.

Services opened by Elder J. E. Williams, text: Timothy 4th chapter, 2nd verse. Elder J. F. Mills followed from the text found in Psalms 2nd chapter and 12th verse. Elder J. E. Adams closed the services of the day from Isaiah 53rd chapter and 8th verse.

MONDAY MORNING, May 6th.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Praise and prayer service by Elder J. F. Mills.

8. Called on Committee of Arrangements to report. Submitted and adopted.

9. Called names of messengers, noted absentees thus *, and read rules of Decorum.

10. Called on Presbyteries to report. Elder J. F. Mills reports that Elder J. E. Williams and Bro. H. M. Williams, Jr., with himself formed a presbytery at Watson and ordained Brethren Joel Mullis and A. Baucom deacons in that church. Also Elder J. E. Williams reports that he and Bro. C. Hill formed a presbytery at Union Grove and ordained Bro. Obed Baucom deacon of that church.

11. Resolved, that we do not divide this Association, neither discontinue the Spring Session, nor change the times of sitting.

12. Resolved that hereafter we will open the door of the Church at the close of services on Sunday as well as Monday at each session.

13. That the Association elect Ministers to preach on Sunday by ballot as heretofore.

14. That the Clerk have $1.25 out of funds on hand, the same being paid by him for a new association book.

15. We extend thanks to God, and to this church and the people of the vicinity for their hospitality during this meeting.

16. Adjourned till first Saturday in October, 1895.

While the Association was in session in the house Elders Jesse Brown and J. C. Williams preached at the stand; text of Elder Williams, Acts 10th chapter and 34th verse; that of Elder Brown, "Joseph is yet alive." Benediction by the Moderator.

J. W. JONES, Clerk. Elder S. C. LITTLE, Moderator.

Statistical Table. Spring Session, 1895.

CHURCHES.	NAMES OF MESSENGERS.	By Experience	Baptised	Rec. by Letter	Restored	Dis. by Letter.	Excluded	Deceased	In fellowship
Bear Creek	E. F. Huneycutt, G. Almond, W. P. Bowers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	23
Bethany	N. G. Jones, E. C. Jones, P. Vaughn*	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	10
Crooked Creek	Elder J. C. Williams, W. D. Benton, H. M. Williams, Jr.	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	23
Freedom	Elder Jesse Brown, Wm. Furr, J. A. Holt	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	7
High Hill	B. F. Williams,* J. J. Hill,* M. Medlin.*	..	..	5	2	3	1	1	41
Howard's Chapel	W. H. Poplin, Henry Carpenter	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Jones Hill	Elder S. C. Little, A. F. Huneycutt, A. G. Morton, Jr.*	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	20
Jerusalem	Joe Thomas,* James Godwin, T. A. Helms.*	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	23
Liberty Hill	Elder N. M. Clark, J. C. Gilbert, A. Smith.*	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15
Liberty	By Letter	..	..	..	..	5	..	1	17
Lawyers Spring	T. Tyson, W. D. Edwards, J. W. Jones	1	1	..	..	..	1	1	27
Meadow Creek	E. Barbee, A. Almond,* J. A. Barbee.*	1	1	..	1	..	1	1	25
Mountain Creek	J. T. Russell, A. Vanhoy	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	12
Pleasant Hill	J. S. Norris.*	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Union Grove	I. N. Medlin,* O. Baucom,* T. F. Hill.*	1	1	3	..	..	1	..	15
Watson	Elder J. F. Mills, S. L. Mullis, A. Baucom	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	19
	Absentees marked thus *	5	5	10	3	9	4	6	288

Proceedings of the Fall Session.

LIBERTY, Union County, N. C.,
October 5th, 1895.

Introductory sermon preached by Elder J. E. Williams; text, St. John 14th chapter and 6th verse. Intermission of thirty minutes, after which the Association reassembled in the house and opened with praise and prayer by Elder J. C. Williams.

1. Called for letters from the several churches of this Association and their status minuted. (See table)

2. Appointed Elder S. C. Little Moderator and J. W. Jones Clerk.

3. Called for correspondence from sister Associations, and brother Samuel Snider, of Abbott's Creek Union took his seat. Minutes from Mountain District.

4. Invited visiting brethren of sister associations to seats. Elder J. E. Adams, of Little River, was present.

5. Appointed on committee of arrangements Elder J. E. Williams, Brethren E. F. Huneycutt and M. Medlin, with Moderator and Clerk.

6. Appointed on committee of finance Brethren H. M. and W. E. Williams.

7. That Elders J. E. Adams, S. C. Little, and J. E. Williams occupy the stand on tomorrow. Services at ten o'clock a. m.

8. Called for and referred the circular letter to the committee of arrangements.

9. Adjourned till 9:30 o'clock Monday morning.

While the Association was in session in the house Elders J. E. Adams and J. C. Williams preached at the stand; Elder Adams' text not known to Clerk; Elder Williams' 10th chapter and 4th verse of Acts.

SUNDAY, Oct. 6th.

Services opened by Elder J. E. Williams from Ephesians 2nd chapter and 1st verse. Elder S. C. Little followed from Rev. 6th chapter and 1st verse. "Come and see." Intermission of one hour, after which the services of the day were closed by Elder J. E. Adams, using as his text James 1st chapter and 6th verse.

MONDAY MORNING, Oct, 7th.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Praise and prayer by Elder J. F. Mills.

10. Called for report of committee of arrangement. It is sumitted and adopted and the committee discharged.

11. Called names of messengers and noted absentees thus*, and read rules of Decorum.

12. Called on corresponding messengers to sister associations to report. Elder J. C. Williams reports that he with other brethren, appointed to attend the Abbott's Creek Union, did so and were cordially received.

13. Called on Presbyteries to report. Elder J. F. Mills reports that he and Deacon Stanly Edwards formed a presbytery at Lawyers' Spring and ordained Bro. Thomas Tyson a deacon of that church.

14. We appoint Correspondence as follows: Abbott's Creeks, Elders J. F. Mills, J. E. and J. C. Williams, and Brethren B. F. and W. E. Williams, Stanly Edwards, and file of minutes; to Mill Branch, file of minutes; to Silver Creek, Elder J. F. Mills, Brother J. S. Norris and file of minutes; to Senter, file of minutes; to Mountain District, file of minutes; to Cool Spring, file of minutes.

15. That articles of faith and rules of decorum be published in the minutes.

16. Treasurer reports on hand from last year after paying for Association book, $1.29

17 Committee of Finance reports sent up by the churches this year $19.70. Total $20.99.

18. That the circular letter prepared by the Clerk be attached to these Minutes.

19. That Elder J. F. Mills write a circular letter for our next minutes.

20. That the Clerk have 600 copies of these Minutes printed and distributed as usual, and that he have $8.00 for his services.

21. That the Clerk have the times and sittings of our Association published in Zion's Landmark.

22. That the next Spring Session be held with Howard's Chapel church, Stanly county, N. C., commencing on Saturday before the first Sunday in May, 1896; and that Elder S. C. Little preach the introductory sermon, Elder J. F. Mills

alternate, and that the Fall Session convene with Union Grove church, Union county, N. C., commencing on Saturday before first Sunday in October, 1896; Elder J. C. Williams to preach the introductory sermon, Elder J. E. Williams alternate.

23. Resolved that the communion meeting of our churches be published in these minutes.

24. We extend thanks to God, this church and people of this vicinity for kindness during this meeting.

25. Adjourned to times and places above mentioned in these minutes.

ELDER S. C. LITTLE,
Moderator.

J. W. JONES, CLERK,
White Store, N. C.

Financial Statement.

Funds on hand from last year after paying for Association book,		$ 1 29
Sent up by the churches this year,		19 70
Total receipts,		$20 99
For printing minutes,	$12 00	
Clerk's fee,	8 00	
Total expenses,		$20 00
Balance on hand,		99

Statistical Table. Fall Session, 1895.

CHURCHES.	NAMES OF MESSENGERS.	By Experience	Baptised	Rec. by Letter	Restored	Dis. by Letter.	Excluded	Deceased	In Fellowship	Contributions
Bear Creek	E. F. Huneycutt, G. Almond,* W. P. Bowers.*	3	3	1	..	..	..	..	25	1 70
Bethany	N. G. Jones, A. D. Manus	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	1 10
Crooked Creek	Elder J. E. Williams, W. M. Benton, H. M. Williams, Jr.	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	21	1 00
Freedom	Elder Jesse Brown,* Wm. Furr,* J. A. Holt*	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	60
High Hill	W. E. Williams, J. J. Hill, M. Medlin	4	4	..	..	1	..	1	45	1 50
Howard's Chapel	W. H. Poplin, Henry Carpenter, John Smith	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	7	75
Jones Hill	Elder S. C. Little, O. Helmes,* Noah Hinson.*	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21	1 05
Jerusalem	Ben Thomas, T. A. Helms, Joe Thomas	3	3	..	..	..	..	..	26	1 50
Liberty Hill	Elder N. M. Clark,* J. C. Gilbert,* A. Smith	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	15	50
Liberty	J. W. Helms, B. R. Funderburk	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17	75
Lawyers Spring	Stanly Edwards, W. D. Edwards, J. W. Jones	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	29	2 75
Mountain Creek	A. F. Huneycut, A. Vanhoy,* J. T. Rusell.*	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	1 20
Meadow Creek	E. Barbee, J. A. Barbee, D. E. Huneycutt	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	25	1 80
Pleasant Hill	J. S. Norris	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	6	1 00
Union Grove	I. N. Medlin, O. Baucom, T. F. Hill	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	18	1 00
Watson	Elder J. F. Mills, S. L. Mullis, R. Williams	2	2	..	..	..	..	1	21	1 50
	Absentees marked thus *	17	17	2	.	3	1	4	305	19 70

Annual Communion Meetings.

CHURCHES.	CLERKS AND POSTOFFICES.	Annual Communion Meetings of Churches.
Bear Creek	E. F. Huneycutt, Big Lick, Stanly County	1st Sunday in Sept.
Bethany	N. G. Jones, Bennett, Anson County	3rd Sunday in Aug.
Crooked Creek	W. R. Helms, Oak Grove, Union County	3rd Sunday in Aug.
Freedom	J. A. Holt, Whitley, Stanly County	2nd Sunday in Sept.
High Hill	Myers Medlin, Monroe, Union County	1st Sunday in Sept.
Howard's Chapel	W. H. Poplin, Efirds Mill, Stanly County	4th Sunday in Sept.
Jones Hill	A. F. Huneycut, Bridgeport, Stanly County	3rd Sunday in Sept.
Jerusalem	T. A. Helms, Negrohead, Union County	2nd Sunday in Aug.
Liberty Hill	J. C. Gilbert, Big Lick, Stanly County	4th Sunday in July.
Liberty	J. W. Helms, Monroe, Union County	4th Sunday in July.
Lawyers Spring	J. W. Jones, White Store, Anson County	1st Sunday in Aug.
Meadow Creek	E. Barbee, Garmond, Cabarrus County	3rd Sunday in Aug.
Mountain Creek	A. Vanhoy, Bilesville, Stanly County	2nd Sunday in Sept.
Pleasant Hill	J. S. Norris, Rock Cut, Iredell County	4th Sunday in June.
Union Grove	I. N. Medlin, Monroe, Union County	2nd Sunday in Sept.
Watson	S. L. Mullis, Sincerity, Union County	4th Sunday in May.

The above dates also represent regular monthly meetings.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

Article 1. We believe in one only living and true God, the Father, the Word and the Holy Ghost.

Art. 2 We believe in the man Jesus being the first of all God's creation and the pattern of all of God's perfection in nature, providence, grace and glory, and in relative union with the Divine Word, and thus united with the whole Trinity.

Art. 3. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments contain the only written revealed word of God, and are the only perfect rule of faith and practice for God's church in her militant State while here on earth.

Art. 4. We believe the doctrine of Election, that God chose His church in Christ Jesus before the world began.

Art. 5. We believe in all mankind's apostacy by transgression in Adam, their federal head.

Art. 6 We believe in the doctrine of Original Sin.

Art. 7. We believe in the impotency of man to recover himself from his fallen state by his own free will and ability.

Art. 8. We believe that sinners are justified freely by grace and before God by faith in Christ and his righteousness only.

Art. 9. We believe that God's elect or church shall be called, converted, regenerated and sanctified by the Holy Spirit in due time.

Art. 10. We believe that the saints shall persevere in grace and never finally fall away.

Art. 11. We believe that baptism and the Lord's supper are ordinances of Christ's appointment and that believers alone are the subjects of baptism and the only proper communicants of the supper; that the mode of baptism is immersion, and that neither of the ordinances is to be altered or changed by the inventions or opinions of men.

Art. 12. We believe that no man as a minister has any right to the administration of any of the ordinances of the gospel except such as are sound in the faith of the gospel, regularly baptised, called of God and have come under the imposition of hands by a regular presbytery.

Art. 13. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, both the just and the unjust, and a general judgment.

Art. 14. We believe that the punishment of the wicked will be everlasting and the joys of the righteous eternal.

RULES OF DECORUM.

1st. A Moderator or chief speaker and clerk may be chosen by the suffrages of the members present, and the chief Moderator shall take his seat at the hour to which the Association shall be adjourned, and, after prayer shall proceed to business. It shall be his duty to keep order, and shall be entitled to the same privilege of speech as that of another member, provided he appoint one of the members to fill the chair during the exercise of such privilege, and in no case shall he give a vote unless the Association be equally divided.

2nd. Only one member shalt be allowed to speak at a time, who shall rise from his seat, address the chier speaker by the appellation of brother, and while speaking shall confine himself strictly to the subject in question and shall not be interrupted unless he digress from the subject, and shall in nowise reflect on any speaker so as to make remarks on his slips, failings or imperfections, but shall fairly give his own views of the case without sophistry or criticism.

3rd. No person shall speak more than three times to one subject, without leave of the Association.

4th. No person shall absent himself from the Association without leave.

5th. No member of the Association shall address any other member of the Association by any other term or name than that of "brother."

6th. The chief speaker or Moderator shall not interrupt one member to prohibit him from speaking unless his speech is finished, except he break the rules of decorum.

7th. The names of all the members of this Association shall be enrolled by the Clerk, and be called over as often as the Association may require.

8th. Any member who shall willingly and knowingly break or violate any of the foregoing rules of this Association shall be reproved by the Association in any way they may think most proper.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

To the Ministers, Messengers and Correspondence of the Bear Creek Baptist Association, Greeting:

Dearly Beloved in Christ: It is with much weakness that I attempt a circular address, but as your appointee, with fear and trembling, I will make the attempt, trusting a divine Providence to guide my pen that what I say may be to the edifying and upbuilding of the believers, and to the honor and glory of God. I will address you concerning the time or common salvation. "Work out your own savation with fear and trembling."—Phil., 2nd chapter, 12th verse. This salvation spoken of here does not mean an inheritance in heaven secured by us on accepting Christ on the terms of the gospel as some of our friends would have us believe. If we are so fortunate as to have a home above it was prepared from before the foundation of the world, and we can only attain to that through Christ and his imputed righteousness, God having predestinated us to that happy end. If God has begun a spiritual work in us he will surely complete it unto the day of Jesus Christ. The brethren had obeyed in Paul's presence and he exhorts them to continue steadfast. With deep solicitude he says; "Only let your conversation be as becometh the gospel of Christ." How needful then, brethren, that we "walk in love as dear children."

If we are the children of promise we are the light of the world, and should let our lights shine. This we cannot do while living after the flesh, therefore "keep yourselves in the love of God." "If ye keep my commandments ye shall abide in my love." One declares that he had no greater joy "than to hear that his children walked in truth." James says, "Draw nigh to God and he will draw nigh to you," and again, Peter says "Dearly beloved I beseech you as pilgrims and strangers abstain from fleshy lusts which war against the soul, having your conversation honest among the Gentiles, that they may by your good works which they shall behold glorify God in the day of visitation." Thus do the Apostles as well as our Savior bear united testimony concerning our deportment toward God. We should learn obedience by their admonitions. If we are diligent and make our calling and election sure by our obedience we shall never fall. Timothy was told to "take heed unto himself and unto the doctrine, to continue in them" and if we do likewise we will both save ourselves and them that hear us. Let us be on our guard daily and hourly. Believing the Bible does not make a christian careles neither does it puff them up. Let us all both young and old at our leisure get our Bibles and turn to I Corinthians, 10th chapter, and read down to the 12th verse and see what a sad picture drawn there and let us profit by their example. "For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation;" wherefore the Holy Ghost saith, "to day if ye hear his voice harden not your hearts as in the provocation in the day of temptation in the wilderness, when your

fathers tempted me, proved mef and saw my works forty years, wherefore I was grieved with that geneation [God is not pleased when we sin] and said, they do always err in their hearts and have not known my ways, so I swear in my wrath, they shall not enter into my rest." The writer then turns to us and says, "Take heed brethren lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God." Let us therefore labor to enter into rest through obedience. The welfare of the church, our own individual happiness and the glory of God all demand our continual service. Let us keep ourselves unspotted from the world and go forth unto him who is our friend bearing his reproach thus showing ourselves dead to the world. We should be strict to attend the stated meetings of our churches but I am pained to see that some of us are very remiss in this very important matter. We should not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, but all, as far as circumstances admit, attend our conference and other meetings regular and remember the poor of our churches and not forget our faithful pastor. We are required to administer unto the necessities of our pastor. We should lay aside worldly interest for our brethren. Now to believers out of the church who tremble and linger around desiring a home with God's children, let me say, come, take the cross, bear the Master's yoke and travel with his humble followers. Don't be deceived with thinking you can live as happy out of duty as in it for God says, "ye shall find rest to your souls," and his word is truth. Do not tempt God or listen to Satan. For Satan will tell you that you are too young or that you are not fit, or that God will bring you into the church when he is ready for you. If this last was true then no child of God could ever disobey him by walking out of duty. If we argue that it is not our duty to do a thing until we do it then we would have a cover for everything whether good or bad. So, dear one, in order to do your duty to God you must first deny self.

Your flesh will never be willing for it lusteth against the Spirit. Believers in Christ are commanded to be baptised, and in the keeping of this ordinance they have a peace of mind and an ease of conscience, not the putting away of the filth of the flesh but the answer of a good conscience toward God. If we neglect to do what we are commanded of him instead blessings we receive chastisement, and instead of the light of his countenance we are left in darkness and sorrow. Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure for the Lord knoweth them that are his. He will never leave them to utterly perish but will rebuke disobedience. May God enable us to ask of him and to walk in him in whatever he commands. If any of us are tempted to sin let us turn away from it. Let us forbear one another in love and speak often one to another. Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord.

"Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Savior be glory and magesty, dominion and power both now and forever." Amen.

February 16th, 1895. J. W. JONES.